

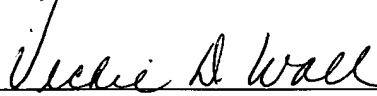
JFW



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2006.


Vickie D. Wall

Applicant : Yuji Mizuno, et al. Confirmation No. 7256
Application No. : 10/552,490
Filed : October 6, 2005
Title : BEVERAGE DISPENSER AND ALARM DEVICE FOR BEVERAGE
DISPENSER (as amended)

Grp./Div. : 3754
Examiner : To be assigned

Docket No. : 56224/A400

LETTER TO CORRECT FILING RECEIPT

Office of Initial Patent Examination's
Filing Receipt Corrections
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
December 5, 2006

Commissioner:

When proofing the Filing Receipt for the above-identified application, we located the following error:

In the Title:

Please delete "Dispenser for beverage and alarm issue device of dispenser for beverage" and insert --Beverage Dispenser and Alarm Device for Beverage Dispenser-- as amended in the preliminary amendment filed October 6, 2005 (copy enclosed). A copy of the Filing Receipt indicating the necessary correction is also enclosed.

Application No. 10/552,490

Please forward a Corrected Filing Receipt to the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 

D. Bruce Prout

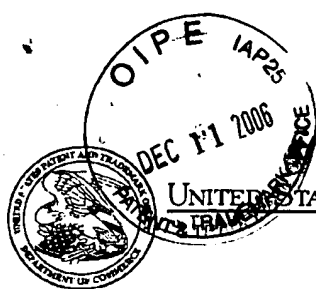
Reg. No. 20,958

626/795-9900

DBP/vdw

Enclosure: Copy of Filing Receipt
Copy of Preliminary Amendment

VDW PAS712480.1-* -12/5/06 10:17 AM

DBP
AAM

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPL NO.	FILING OR 371 (c) DATE	ART UNIT	FIL FEE REC'D	ATTY. DOCKET NO	DRAWINGS	TOT CLMS	IND CLMS
10/552,490	10/06/2005	3754	1260	56224/DBP/A400	3	7	2

CONFIRMATION NO. 7256

23363
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP
PO BOX 7068
PASADENA, CA 91109-7068

RECEIVED

SEP 05 2006

FILING RECEIPT



OC000000020235842

Christie, Parker & Hale, LLP

Date Mailed: 08/30/2006

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).

Applicant(s)

Yuji Mizuno, Osaka, JAPAN;
Katsumi Takenaka, Saitama, JAPAN;

Power of Attorney: The patent practitioners associated with Customer Number 23363.

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

This application is a 371 of PCT/JP05/03683 02/25/2005

Foreign Applications

JAPAN 2004-062249 03/05/2004

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 08/29/2006

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US10/552,490**

Projected Publication Date: 12/07/2006

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

A400:
CASE # 56224 ACTION /
REMINDER DUE DATE
DEADLINE

Beverage Dispenser And Alarm Device for Beverage
~~Dispenser for beverage and alarm-issue device of dispenser for beverage~~
Dispenser

Preliminary Class

222

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

LICENSE FOR FOREIGN FILING UNDER
Title 35, United States Code, Section 184
Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, 5.11 & 5.15

GRANTED

The applicant has been granted a license under 35 U.S.C. 184, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" followed by a date appears on this form. Such licenses are issued in all applications where the conditions for issuance of a license have been met, regardless of whether or not a license may be required as set forth in 37 CFR 5.15. The scope and limitations of this license are set forth in 37 CFR 5.15(a) unless an earlier license has been issued under 37 CFR 5.15(b). The license is subject to revocation upon written notification. The date indicated is the effective date of the license, unless an earlier license of similar scope has been granted under 37 CFR 5.13 or 5.14.

This license is to be retained by the licensee and may be used at any time on or after the effective date thereof unless it is revoked. This license is automatically transferred to any related applications(s) filed under 37 CFR 1.53(d). This license is not retroactive.

The grant of a license does not in any way lessen the responsibility of a licensee for the security of the subject matter as imposed by any Government contract or the provisions of existing laws relating to espionage and the national security or the export of technical data. Licensees should apprise themselves of current regulations especially with respect to certain countries, of other agencies, particularly the Office of Defense Trade Controls, Department of State (with respect to Arms, Munitions and Implements of War (22 CFR 121-128)); the Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce (15 CFR parts 730-774); the Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of Treasury (31 CFR Parts 500+) and the Department of Energy.

NOT GRANTED

No license under 35 U.S.C. 184 has been granted at this time, if the phrase "IF REQUIRED, FOREIGN FILING LICENSE GRANTED" DOES NOT appear on this form. Applicant may still petition for a license under 37 CFR 5.12, if a license is desired before the expiration of 6 months from the filing date of the application. If 6 months has lapsed from the filing date of this application and the licensee has not received any indication of a secrecy order under 35 U.S.C. 181, the licensee may foreign file the application pursuant to 37 CFR 5.15(b).



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXPRESS MAIL NO. EV 327928171 US

Appl No. : To be assigned Confirmation No. To be assigned
Applicant : Mizuno, et al.
Filed : October 4, 2005
Title : BEVERAGE DISPENSER AND ALARM DEVICE FOR BEVERAGE
DISPENSER (as amended)
TC/A.U. : To be assigned
Examiner : To be assigned
Docket No. : 56224/DBP/A400
Customer No. : 23363

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Post Office Box 7068
Pasadena, CA 91109-7068
October 6, 2005

Commissioner:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.

Appln No. To be assigned
Amdt date October 6, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete the current title and replace with the following:

-- BEVERAGE DISPENSER AND ALARM DEVICE FOR BEVERAGE DISPENSER --

After the title please add the following:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a National Phase Patent Application of International Application Number PCT/JP2005/003683, filed on February 25, 2005, which claims priority of Japanese Patent Application Number 2004-062249, filed on March 5, 2004. --

Appln No. To be assigned
Amdt date October 6, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A beverage dispenser for ejecting a beverage into a receptacle, comprising
nozzles provided in the beverage dispenser, for ejecting the beverage,
obstacle detection means for detecting an obstacle around the nozzle, and
alarm means for issuing an alarm when the detection means detects the obstacle.
2. (Original) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 1, further comprising a
mechanism capable of not detecting the receptacle, into which the beverage is ejected from the
beverage dispenser, as the obstacle.
3. (Original) A beverage dispenser as defined by claim 2, wherein the mechanism
capable of not detecting the receptacle into which the beverage is ejected defines a detection area
of the obstacle detection means in the vicinity of the nozzles.
4. (Original) A beverage dispenser as defined by any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein
the alarm is not issued from the alarm means when the beverage is ejected.
5. (Currently Amended) A beverage dispenser as defined by ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~
claim 1, further comprising a switch capable of making the alarm means inoperative.
6. (Currently Amended) A beverage dispenser as defined by ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~
claim 1, wherein the alarm means is an acoustic generator.
7. (Original) An alarm device for a beverage dispenser for ejecting a beverage into a
receptacle from a nozzle, comprising obstacle detection means for detecting an obstacle around
the nozzle, and an alarm means issuing an alarm when an obstacle is detected by the obstacle
detection means.

Appln No. To be assigned
Amdt date October 6, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

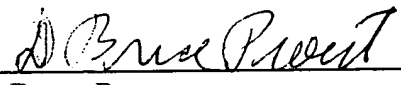
Claims 1-7 remain in the application. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended.

The title was amended to correspond with the English translation.

The introduction was amended to cross reference the International and Japanese applications on which the application is based.

It is respectfully requested that the foregoing preliminary amendment be entered prior to examination.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
D. Bruce Prout
Reg. No. 20,958
626/795-9900

DBP/vdw
VDW PAS646486.1-*-10/6/05 2:28 PM